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ITALY.

Reports from Naples.

NAPLES, ITALY, October 5, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to report that for the week ended October 4, 1899, bills of health were issued to the following ships: On September 28 the steamship *Verbena*, bound, in ballast, for Newport News, Va.

On September 29 to the steamship *Ems*, of the North German Lloyd Steamship Company, bound, with passengers and cargo, for New York. There were inspected and passed 602 steerage and 85 cabin passengers, and 684 pieces of small and 306 pieces of large baggage.

On September 29 to the steamship *Victoria*, of the Anchor Line, bound, with passengers and cargo, for New York. There were inspected and passed 671 steerage and 2 cabin passengers, and 738 pieces of small and 150 pieces of large baggage.

On October 3, to the *Spartan Prince* of the Prince Line, bound with passengers and cargo for New York. There were inspected and passed 822 steerage and 5 cabin passengers, and 796 pieces of small and 276 pieces of large baggage.

On October 4, to the steamship *Neustria* of the Fabre Line, bound with passengers and cargo for New York. There were inspected and passed 669 steerage and 2 cabin passengers, and 658 pieces of small and 210 pieces of large baggage.

Respectfully, yours,

VICTOR G. HEISER,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Report on the water at Messina, Italy, that is furnished to vessels bound for the United States.

NAPLES, ITALY, October 10, 1899.

SIR: In pursuance of Bureau orders of September 16, ultimo, I have the honor to make the following report on the water that is furnished at Messina, Italy, to ships bound for the United States:

City of Messina.—The city of Messina is a city of about 150,000 inhabitants situated on the eastern coast of the island of Sicily. The city is several average city blocks wide and extends for a distance of several kilometers parallel with the coast. The land slopes up gradually from the sea to a height of several hundred meters. In the city there are many places where water for drinking purposes is sold whose source is other than from the city mains; from trustworthy sources it was learned that almost everyone who could possibly afford to do so either bought water which came from other places or boiled the city water before using it. An epidemic of typhoid fever prevailed during the previous summer. The city is supplied with water by two reservoirs and one system of pipes which come from springs direct, each being a complete system in itself, the pipes from the several systems are said not to connect and each supplies water to a definite portion of the city. Since the shipping may derive its water from any of these various mentioned systems, the source of each was investigated.

Source of water during wet season.—During the wet season of the year the water comes from the springs which are situated some kilometers back of Messina; that water which goes first to the reservoirs is con-